



Suss

BOROUGH OF RYE.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920.

To the Mayor and Members of the Rye Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough, and the precautions taken against the occurrence and spread of disease.

BIRTH RATE.

Births registered, 83 (14 more than last year), namely : 36 boys and 47 girls—giving a rate of 19·08 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE.

Deaths registered, 32 (12 less than last year), namely : 18 males and 14 females—which calculated on a population of 4,350 gives a rate of 7·35 per 1,000. This is an exceptionally low Death Rate, and speaks well for the health of the Borough. Out of this number 13 were of the age of 65 and upwards.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease, 3 ; Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, 4 ; Bronchitis, 3 ; Cancer, 3 ; and Old Age, 12.

Rates were : Respiratory Diseases, 0·68 per 1,000 ; Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, 0·91 per 1,000 ; Persons of 65 years of age and over—per centage of total deaths, 40·62. Deaths under one year of age, 3—making Infant Death Rate of 36·14 per 1,000 Births.

Prevalence of Disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were several cases during the year, but no deaths occurred.

MEASLES.

There were only a few cases during the year. No deaths occurred, and taking the cases generally, they were of a mild character.

INFLUENZA.

There were a number of cases ; all of a mild character, except one, where death resulted.

DIPHTHERIA

There were 11 cases, all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Six of these occurred at one house, and owing to the first case not being notified until a week after the onset, the whole family was infected. The remaining cases were in a very septic form. Four deaths resulted

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 4 cases of a slight nature. All removed to the Isolation Hospital.

SMALLPOX.

No cases. Arrangements have been made with the Hastings Corporation whereby one bed is always at the disposal of the Infectious Hospital Joint Committee.

ERYSIPELAS.

One notified during the year.

ENTERIC AND CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID "A"

One notified during the year.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

None notified during the year.

MALARIA

One notified during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Rye Borough Nursing Association have again done good work.

Babies are periodically visited by the Maternity Nurse up to the age of 12 months, and by the Borough Nurse until they attain the age of 5 years.

The Hilder Bequest Committee also assists the poor by the issuing of nourishment tickets.

Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed by the Public Vaccinator is as follows: (a) Primary vaccinations, 42; (b) re-vaccinations, 1.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1919.

Arrangements have been made for the carrying out within the Borough of the above Order, and applications for Milk are dealt with through the East Sussex County Council.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

In accordance with the Memorandum to Medical Officers issued by the Ministry of Health, I beg to report :—

- (1) That there is no special physical feature in the general character of the District.
- (2) The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Fishing, Shipbuilding, Net-Making and Agriculture, none of which have any particular influence on Public Health.

The poor and aged are well cared for, either by Poor Relief, Old Age Pensions or Charities, and very little actual distress occurs in the Borough.

It should be borne in mind how the "Hilder Bequest" assists the indigent poor, both as regards nursing, nourishment tickets and the supply of coal during the winter months.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.

This still continues abundant. Samples have again been taken, and the Analyst reports that the water continues excellent for household purposes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only source of pollution to rivers or streams in the Borough is the discharge of sewage. These rivers are all tidal, and not used for water supplies in any form.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Town Drainage System, which meets the requirements of the town at the present time, has been in existence for many years. The Main Sewers are mostly brick barrel drains discharging into the rivers Tillingham and Rother, which convey the sewage to the sea. The Sewers discharge at low water level, and are therefore shut down for a portion of each tide. The flush obtained from the Brede and part of the Tillingham rivers greatly assist in carrying the sewage clear of the town. These rivers are filled up at high tide, and held up at each tide by Sluice Gates, and released when the bulk of the sewage is discharged.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The form in general use is the wash-down pedestal pan, with two-gallon flushing cistern.

SCAVENGING.

The removal and deposit of house refuse by the Scavenger has been well carried out. The refuse is carted away to an isolated part of the Borough, and some portion thereof burned in the Destructor. The remainder is sold for manure and carted away into the adjoining districts.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

According to the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, during the year 155 inspections were made.

The number of notices served was :—

Informal	...	...	..	48
Statutory—(a) under Public Health Acts	...			9
(b) under Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909	...		...	5
(c) under Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	...		...	58

These notices, with the exception of 10, were complied with by the end of the year.

SCHOOLS.

The Public Elementary Schools have been periodically visited during the year, and nothing requiring special mention was detected.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY AND OTHER FOODS.

The milk supply is of a wholesome character and is well maintained. No prosecutions for adulteration have been taken during the year.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops within the Borough have been inspected and found to be in a clean condition, and the regulations in respect thereof complied with.

One carcase of a bullock was found infected with Tuberculosis, and was condemned and destroyed.

The food for human consumption has been of a wholesome character, and nothing at all dangerous to health has been detected during the year except as above referred to.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough at the dates mentioned below is as follows :—

		In 1914	In Jan., 1920	In Dec., 1920
Registered	...	3	3	3
Licensed	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
		—	—	—
Total	....	3	3	3

They are all suitable buildings, clean and well kept.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The number of Workshops, including the Bake-Houses, on the register during the year was twenty-six. These have all been regularly inspected, and all defects found were promptly remedied. No prosecution was found necessary.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

All cases have been sent to the Isolation Hospital. In every case thorough disinfection of the premises has been made by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Tuberculosis.

Six notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been given during the year.

Sanitary Administration.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer, Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances and Scavenger.

The Infectious Hospital has again proved of great assistance, and eighteen cases have been sent from Rye during the year. The accommodation is ample for all necessities at present, and the administration excellent.

Housing.

In accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health, the Housing Inspector has reported as follows :—

(1)—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The number of houses within the Borough is 1,106, 751 of which are of the working class description. Two new houses have been erected during the year. The estimated population is 4,350. There is a shortage of houses within the Borough, and a scheme to build ninety houses on the outskirts of the town has been approved by the Ministry. The first twenty have been commenced.

(2)—OVERCROWDING.

A few cases of overcrowding were found to exist, caused chiefly by the large number of small houses occupied and the fact that no habitable houses were empty. However, these cases were not of a serious character, and it is thought that they might be left until new houses were built, when matters could be adjusted.

The number of Visitors to the town increases every year, and many of what were Workmen's Cottages have been altered and used for their accommodation.

(3)—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

A number of houses are still slightly below the desired standard. The principal defects being dilapidations, insufficiency of air space and light and defective drainage. The worst cases cannot be dealt with

without being closed, and this will only be possible when a sufficient number of new houses have been built. Bad defects exist only in the older cottages, which have never been kept up to a proper standard, and suffered further from neglect during the War. Property owners discouraged, no doubt, by the high cost of repairs and low rents obtainable, have shewn some unwillingness to put their houses in order. The repairs were proceeding so slowly that it was decided to carry out the work in default of Landlords by direct labour, and this has proved most successful. The work was commenced in May, and is still proceeding. Most of the work was carried out under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919. Except in a few cases, each house has a separate domestic water supply, W.C. and sink. The system of house refuse collection is satisfactory.

(4)–UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no unhealthy areas within the Borough.

(5)–BYE-LAWS.

The existing Bye-Laws work satisfactorily.

(6)–STATISTICS.

I.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated Population	...	...	4,350
(2)	General Death Rate	...	7.35	per 1,000
(3)	Death Rate from Tuberculosis	...	0.91	„
(4)	Infantile Mortality	...	36.14	per 1,000 births
(5)	Number of Dwelling Houses of all classes ..	..	1,106	
(6)	Number of Working Class Dwelling Houses	...	751	
(7)	Number of New Working Class Houses erected	...	1	

II.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1—INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	50
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	50
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	None
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	None

NOTE.—The majority of the defective houses were inspected and recorded during the previous year.

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITH SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---



3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	58
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit			
	(a) By Owners	...	...	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	45
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	None

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied			
	(a) By Owners	...	...	None
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	1
	(c) By Local Authority at request of Owners	...	...	5

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	None
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	None
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	None
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	None
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	None

4—Number of houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... 2

5—Staff engaged on Housing Work

- (a) Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- (b) Inspector of Nuisances and Housing Inspector (part time).

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. T. HARRATT,

Medical Officer of Health.

MINT HOUSE, RYE,

31st March, 1921.

